

DESCRIPTION**PETUNIA PLANT NAMED 'SUNBELHO'**

5 BOTANICAL/COMMERCIAL CLASSIFICATION

Petunia hybrida/Petunia Plant

VERIETAL DENOMINATION

cv. 'Sunbelho'

BACKGROUND OF THE VARIETY

10 The Petunia is a very popular plant that is used for
flower bedding and potting in the summer season. There
are only a few Petunia developed series of small flower
petunias, such as, 'SUNTORY SP-R' (U.S. Plant Pat. No.
9557), 'SUNBERUBU' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9754),
15 'SUNBELCHIPI' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 10,355) and 'SUNBELKI'
(U.S. Plant Pat. No. 11,558) having a semi-decumbent
growth habit, a medium plant height, abundant branching,
and a high resistance to heat and rain and disease.
However there are only a few varieties having a great
20 profusion of flowers, white flower color, a very small
flower size and a high resistance to rain, heat, and
diseases. Accordingly, this invention was aimed at
obtaining a new variety having white colored petals, and
very small flowers combined with the above features.

25 The new variety of Petunia plant according to this
invention originated from crossing with the petunia
variety called '9W16' and the other petunia plant variety
called '9W6'.

30 First of all, a crossing was conducted with the
'9W16' variety as female parent and a petunia plant
variety '9W6' as pollen parent in April 1998 at the Omi
R&D Center of SUNTORY FLOWERS Ltd., located at 863-1,
Aza-Iketani, Omori-cho, Yokaichi-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan.
From that crossing, 50 seedlings were obtained and 5
35 seedlings were selected in view of their semi-erect
growth habit by the end of September 1999. These 5
seedlings were grown and were tested during potting and

bedding trials. Only one plant was selected in September 2000. The selected plant was propagated by cutting and then grown in pot on trial in the green house and the field at the Omi R&D Center from April to October 2001.

5 The botanical characteristics of the finally selected plant were examined, using similar variety 'SUNBELCHIFI' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 10355) for comparison. As a result, it was concluded that this new Petunia is distinguishable from any other variety, whose existence is known to us,
10 and is uniform and stable in its characteristics then this new variety of Petunia plant was named 'SUNBELHO'.

In the following description, the color information is in accordance with The R.H.S. Color Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society, London, England. A color chart
15 based on The Japan Color Standard for Horticultural Plants (J.H.S. Color Chart) is also added for reference.

The '9W16', used as female parent in the obtaining of this new variety 'SUNBELHO', is our bred variety previously filed in Japan. The main botanical
20 characteristics of the '9W16' are as follows:

Plant:

Growth habit.-- Semi-decumbent.

Plant height.-- 18 cm.

Spreading area of plant.-- Slightly large.

25 Blooming period.-- April to late October in the southern Kanto area, Japan. The plant shape does not change throughout this period.

Stem:

Thickness.-- 2.8 mm.

30 Pubescence.-- Sparse.

Branching.-- Abundant with the superior branching propensity, especially secondary branches are.

Length of internode.-- 2.2 cm.

Leaf:

35 Shape.-- Semi-lanceolate.

Length.-- 5.2 cm.

Width.-- 2.2 cm.

Color.-- Dark yellow green (R.H.S. 146A, J.H.S. 3508).

Thickness.-- 0.3 mm.

Pubescence.-- Sparse.

Leaf attaching angle to stem.-- Horizontal.

5 Flower:

Facing direction.-- Slantly upward.

Type.-- Single.

Shape.-- Funnel-shape, with five-fissured limb.

Shape of petal tip.-- Slightly acute.

10 Waving of petal.-- Weak

Lobation of petal.-- Shallow.

Diameter.-- 2.9 cm.

Color.-- Petal: Vivid red purple (R.H.S. 74A, J.H.S. 9207). Bottom color of corolla throat: Light greenish

15 yellow (R.H.S. 5D, J.H.S. 2703). Outside color of corolla

tube: Bright greenish yellow (R.H.S. 5C, J.H.S. 2905).

Reproductive organs.-- 1 normal pistil and 5 normal stamens.

Fertility.-- Fertile, but self-incompatible.

20 Peduncle.-- 1.3 mm in thickness, and 2.3 cm in length.

Physiological and ecological characteristics.--High resistance to cold, heat, rain and diseases such as Powdery mildew. The resistance to heat and rain is very strong.

25 Blooming:

A bloom commonly lasts approximately 10 days on the plant. Pinching is not necessary to ensure continuous blooming; however, it does tend to enhance bloom production.

30 The '9W6', used as male parent in the obtaining of this new variety 'SUNBELHO', are our bred variety and not filed in Japan nor any other country. '9W6' had been grown at the Omi R&D Center of SUNTORY FLOWERS Ltd., located at 863-1, Aza-Iketani, Omori-cho, Yokaichi-shi,

35 Shiga-ken, Japan. The main botanical characteristics of the '9W6' are as follows:

Plant:

- Growth habit.-- Semi-erect.
Plant height.-- 26 cm.
Spreading area of plant.-- Slightly large.
Blooming period.-- April to late October in the southern
5 Kanto area, Japan. The plant shape does not change
throughout this period.
Stem:
Thickness.-- 2.2 mm.
Pubescence.-- Normal.
10 Branching.-- Abundant with the superior branching
propensity, especially secondary branches are.
Length of internode.-- 1.7 cm.
Leaf:
Shape.-- Lanceolate.
15 Length.-- 4.8 cm.
Width.-- 1.3 cm.
Color.-- Dark yellow green (R.H.S. 146A, J.H.S. 3508).
Thickness.-- 0.3 mm.
Pubescence.-- Sparse.
20 Leaf attaching angle to stem.-- Horizontal.
Flower:
Facing direction.-- Slantly upward.
Type.-- Single.
Shape.-- Funnel-shape, with five-fissured limb.
25 Shape of petal tip.-- Slightly acute.
Waving of petal.-- Weak.
Lobation of petal.-- Shallow.
Diameter.-- 3.1 cm.
Color.-- Petal: Vivid red purple (R.H.S. 61C, J.H.S.
30 9507). Bottom color of corolla throat: Strong greenish
yellow (R.H.S. 4C, J.H.S. 2707). Outside color of corolla
tube: Pale greenish yellow (R.H.S. 5D, J.H.S. 2703).
Reproductive organs.-- 1 normal pistil and 5 normal
stamens.
35 Fertility.-- Fertile, but self-incompatible.
Peduncle.-- 1.2 mm in thickness, and 1.6 cm in length.
Physiological and ecological characteristics.-- High

resistance to cold, heat, rain and diseases such as Powdery mildew. The resistance to heat and rain is very strong.

Blooming:

- 5 A bloom commonly lasts approximately 10 days on the plant. Pinching is not necessary to ensure continuous blooming; however, it does tend to enhance bloom production.

- 10 The 'SUNBELCHIFI', used as a comparison in the obtaining of this new variety 'SUNBELHO', is our bred variety previously filed in Japan (Seeds and Seedlings law Registration No. 7232) and U.S.A. (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 10355). The main botanical characteristics of the 'SUNBELCHIFI' are as follows:

15 Plant:

- Growth habit.-- Semi-decumbent.
Plant height.-- 16 cm.
Spreading area of plant.-- Slightly large.
Blooming period.-- April to late October in the southern
20 Kanto area, Japan. The plant shape does not change throughout this period.

Stem:

- Thickness.-- 2.4 mm.
Pubescence.-- Normal.
25 Branching.-- Abundant with the superior branching propensity, especially secondary branches are.
Length of internode.-- 2.1 cm.

Leaf:

- Shape.-- Lanceolate.
30 Length.-- 5.2 cm.
Width.-- 1.4 cm.
Color.-- Dark yellow green (R.H.S. 146A, J.H.S. 3508).
Thickness.-- 0.4 mm.
Pubescence.-- Sparse.

- 35 Leaf attaching angle to stem.-- Horizontal to slightly droopy.

Flower:

Facing direction.-- Horizontal.

Type.-- Single.

Shape.-- Funnel-shape, with five-fissured limb.

Shape of petal tip.-- Medium.

5 Waving of petal.-- Weak.

Lobation of petal.-- Shallow.

Diameter.-- 2.9 cm.

Color.-- Petal: Vivid purplish red (R.H.S. 57C, J.H.S. 9707). Bottom color of corolla throat: Strong yellow
10 (R.H.S. 9A, J.H.S. 2513). Outside color of corolla tube: Light greenish yellow (R.H.S. 5C, J.H.S. 2904).

Reproductive organs.-- 1 normal pistil and 5 normal stamens.

Fertility.-- Fertile, but self-incompatible.

15 Peduncle.-- 0.8 mm in thickness, and 2.0 cm in length.

Physiological and ecological characteristics.-- High resistance to cold, heat, rain and diseases such as Powdery mildew. The resistance to heat and rain is very strong.

20 Blooming:

A bloom commonly lasts approximately 10 days on the plant. Pinching is not necessary to ensure continuous blooming; however, it does tend to enhance bloom production.

25 SUMMARY OF THE VARIETY

This new variety of Petunia plant 'SUNBELHO' has a semi-decumbent growth habit with abundant branching, with single and very small white color flowers and forms a great profusion of blooms with the whole plant remaining
30 in bloom for a considerable period of time. The plant is highly tolerant to cold, rain, heat and diseases, particularly powdery mildew and highly resistant to heat and rain.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

35 FIG. 1 is a photograph of flowers and leaves of the new variety of Petunia plant 'SUNBELHO'.

FIG. 2 is a photograph of a typical plant of the new

variety of Petunia plant 'SUNBELHO' growing in a pot.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW VARIETY

The botanical characteristics of the new and distinct variety of Petunia plant named 'SUNBELHO' are as follows when observing during October at Yokaichi-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan, young plants that had been reproduced by cuttings in June.

Plant:

Growth habit.-- Semi-decumbent.
10 Plant height.-- 16 cm.
Spreading area of plant.-- Slightly large.
Blooming period.-- April to late October in the southern Kanto area, Japan. The plant shape does not change throughout this period.

15 Stem:

Thickness.-- 2.3 mm.
Pubescence.-- Normal.
Branching.-- Abundant with the superior branching propensity, especially secondary branches are.
20 Length of internode.-- 2.6 cm.

Leaf:

Shape.-- Lanceolate.
Length.-- 5.1 cm.
Width.-- 1.6 cm.
25 Color.-- Dark yellow green (R.H.S. 146A, J.H.S. 3508).
Thickness.-- 0.4 mm.
Pubescence.-- Sparse.

Leaf attaching angle to stem.-- Horizontal to slightly droopy.

30 Flower:

Facing direction.-- Slantly upward to horizontal.
Type.-- Single.
Shape.-- Funnel-shape, with five-fissured limb.
Shape of petal tip.-- Medium.

35 Waving of petal.-- Weak
Lobation of petal.-- Shallow.
Diameter.-- 3.0 cm.

Color.-- Petal: White (R.H.S.155A, J.H.S. -01). Bottom color of corolla throat: Brilliant greenish yellow (R.H.S. 8A, J.H.S. 2704). Outside color of corolla tube: Bright greenish yellow (R.H.S. 5C, J.H.S. 2905).

5 Reproductive organs.-- 1 normal pistil and 5 normal stamens.

Fertility.-- Fertile, but self-incompatible.

Peduncle.-- 0.8 mm in thickness, and 1.9 cm in length.

10 Physiological and ecological characteristics.-- High resistance to cold, heat, rain and diseases such as Powdery mildew. The resistance to heat and rain is very strong.

Blooming:

15 A bloom commonly lasts approximately 10 days on the plant. Pinching is not necessary to ensure continuous blooming; however, it does tend to enhance bloom production.

20 This new variety of Petunia plant is most suitable for flower bedding and potting, particularly in hanging pots or planters, and is excellent for use as ground cover. Pinching of old blossoms will enhance the formation of new blossoms.